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NINTH PLENUM SPEECH OF WLADYSLAW KRUCZEK
ON AGRICULTURE IN BYDGOSZCZ WOJEWODZTWO, POLAND

Nowe Drogi
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The following report of Wladyslaw Kruczek, First Secretary of the PZPR (Polish United Workers' Party) Bydgoszcz Wojewodztwo Committee, was given at the Ninth Plenum of the Central Committee of the PZPR, held in Warsaw on 29-30 October 1953.

The report was given at the plenum as an amplification of the featured report of Premier Boleslaw Bierut, "Task of Party in Struggle to Raise Standard of Living of Workers in Current Phase of Building Socialism." An English-language translation of Bierut's report is available in the PAP (Polish Press Agency) release of 6 November 1953, pages 1-44.

We have done very little in Bydgoszcz Wojewodztwo to raise agricultural productivity. Despite favorable conditions, we have many backward farms and neglected villages. Whole powiats, such as Rypin and Aleksandrow, have shown almost no increase in per-hectare yields, in fodder production, and in livestock production in the last several years. In Aleksandrow Powiat, the per-hectare yield of rye and oats was the same in 1951 as in 1949 -- 14 quintals.

To show the latent possibilities for development, let us compare production figures of villages and individual farms working under identical conditions, yet achieving quite different production results.

Kowalewo Gmina, Wabrzezno Powiat, is an area of average yields. The village of Plywaczewo in this gmina has been leading in compulsory deliveries, in contracting crops, and livestock production for the past several years. Its neighbor, Sierakowo, has the same crop distribution and the same type of soil. Plywaczewo has placed 141 hectares, 35.4 percent of the total cultivated area, under contract crops. The peasants have lived up to their contracts and contract plans have been fulfilled. The fields have been properly cultivated and scientific measures applied at the proper time. Plant and livestock production has increased every year. Per-hectare yields have risen to 18 quintals for wheat, 13 for rye, 24 for oats, 20 for barley, 180 for potatoes, and 230 for beets. The milk yield per cow averages 3,000 liters. The peasants have delivered 350 bacon hogs above the plan. While Plywaczewo is fulfilling its plans, its neighbor, Sierakowo, shows much lower yields. The difference between the two is that Sierakowo applies no scientific measures whatsoever.

By raising the poor and medium farms to the level of the leading individual peasant farms, like those in Plywaczewo, we can increase production, improve the welfare of the peasants, and fulfill our responsibilities to the state. To achieve a marked improvement in the struggle for increased productivity, our wojewodztwo party organizations must increase their efforts in disseminating agricultural knowledge. As Comrade Bierut has said, there is lack of effort by party organizations to increase productivity. The party apparatus of the wojewodztwo committees and the presidiums of the people's councils have shown only a superficial interest in the problem. They have disregarded the fact that in certain powiats, gminas, or villages, the per-hectare yields have fallen instead of risen. Only 50 percent of individual farms have completed the post harvest plowing, and some producers cooperatives have not done much better.

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Another difficulty is the fact that credits for plowing were activated until it was almost time for work to start in the fields. Row cultivation has been entirely neglected and some villages have even neglected spring harrowing of winter wheat. State farms, producers cooperatives, and individual peasant farms have been equally lax in proper fertilization of their farms. They do not properly appreciate the value of composts and proper manure storage. Improper storage of only one third of the manure in the wojewodztwo would result in the loss equivalent to the amount of nitrogen contained in 1,000 cars of nitrate, or 560 cars of potassium salts.

Another problem is the great number of unproductive farms and farms which are not worked by their owners. For instance in Znin Powiat, there are 167 neglected farms covering almost 4,000 hectares. There are from 8-9 head of livestock and 25 pigs for each 100 hectares, whereas the average for the wojewodztwo is 32 head of livestock and 73 pigs. Because of the small livestock inventory and improper fertilization, cultivation has shifted to spike grains, with a preponderance of rye, and cultivation of root crops has been reduced. Rented farms are only half as productive as other farms.

We could solve this problem by allotting these farms to the small farmer and applying the same relief measures and tax rate given to settlers in the west. Credits should be increased and state supplies of materials for construction and repairs on individual farms should also be increased. Another solution of this problem is the cultivation of these lands by groups, organization of common pastures, and increased fodder production.

There are many measures, especially an ownership title, which give the peasant an incentive to utilize the investment possibilities not utilized up to now.

Let us return to the problem of livestock production in our wojewodztwo. Compared with 1949, the number of pigs have increased 50 percent, sheep 96 percent, and cattle 8 percent. We have noticed a lag in livestock production on many farms recently. After careful study we have decided that one of the main reasons for this is inadequate fodder production, inadequate distribution of high-protein legumes and fodder crops (zea gigantea, corn, and cabbage), and improper care of meadows and pastures. The cultivation of fodder-plant seeds has been neglected. Every year there has been a shortage of these seeds on the state farms, producers cooperatives, and individual farms. The farmers have shown only a slight interest in raising yearling cattle, and there has been a marked drop in 1953 as compared with 1950.

To raise livestock production and assure an adequate fodder supply, we must organize fodder-seed production in state farms and producers cooperatives so as to supply our own needs.

We can increase the interest in raising calves by offering various premiums and providing adequate funds for the state farms and producers cooperatives.

In general, we have good cadres of experts and practical farmers on the wojewodztwo level. On the powiat level the cadres are unsatisfactory, but in the gminas and villages the problem is really serious. We must give this problem more attention. If we work properly with the people we have, and prepare new cadres at the same time, we shall undoubtedly fulfill the task set before us by the ninth plenum.

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We must organize more party meetings in the villages; we must invite farm experts and nonparty peasants; we must discuss the problem of increased productivity; and we must mobilize the whole village to do some actual work.

This work includes organization of meetings and discussions of shock-workers to exchange views and experiences. These experiences must be disseminated among the peasants. Our party organizations must explain to the peasants that the struggle for increased yields is important to them personally, since it means their welfare and their future.

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